

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, ECON, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO STUDY OF ECONOMIC ISSUES

REF: A. STATE 101659

B. USNATO 2766

1. SPC ON JUNE 5 AGAIN CONSIDERED ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PAPER ON SECURITY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION (AC/127-D/508).

2. CANADIAN REP (ROY) AGAIN STATED THE CANADIAN VIEW THAT PARAGRAPHS 5, 6 AND 7 WERE TOO PESIMISTIC REGARDING THE CONSEQUENCES TO THE ALLIES OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE SAID THERE WAS NOT TIME PRESSURE IN GETTING THE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL, SO THE SPC SHOULD SEND IT BACK TO THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE FOR RE-DRAFTING.

3. HOWEVER, CONSENSUS OF OTHER SPC MEMBERS WAS THAT THE SPC SHOULD NOT DELAY UNDULY IN GETTING THE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL, OR VARIOUS DATA AND JUDGEMENTS IN THE REPORT WOULD BECOME OBSOLETE. IN ANY EVENT, THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO REVIEW THE REPORT AT REGULAR INTERVALS. CANADIAN REP JOINED THE CONSENSUS BEHIND THE FOLLOWING SPC COVER NOTE TO THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
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REPORT:

THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE HAS REVIEWED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE EXCELLENT REPORT PREPARED BY THE ECONOMIC

COMMITTEE OF "NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT: SECURITY AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION" (AC/127-D/508) AND RECOMMENDS THE REPORT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL.

2. DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THIS REPORT IN THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE, IT WAS NOTED THAT PARAGRAPHS 5, 6 AND 7 ABOUT THE EFFECT ON SECURITY WITHIN NATO OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION COULD BE READ TO INDICATE AN UNDULY PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE PROSPECTS FOR THE ALLIANCE. IT WAS ALSO NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PARAGRAPHS WERE DELIBERATELY PHRASED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO REFLECT THEIR CONDITIONAL NATURE, AND WERE DESIGNED MERELY TO POINT OUT THE POTENTIAL DANGERS FOR ALLIED SECURITY IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

4. SPE ALSO AGREED TO REMOVE THE BRACKETS IN PARA 7 OF THE REPORT (THESE WERE THE ONLY REMAINING BRACKETS) AND TO REVISE THE PHRASE IN QUESTION TO READ "SUCH DEVELOPMENTS COULD INCREASE IN SOME COUNTRIES THE RISK OF POLITICAL EXTREMISM."

5. SPC AGREED TO TRANSMIT THE REPORT WITH THE COVER NOTE, AND THE REVISION DESCRIBED IN THE PREVIOUS PARA, TO THE NAC.

6. COMMENT: REF A STATED THAT FOR TIME BEING WASHINGTON PREFERRED TO HOLD OPEN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER NAC CONSIDERATION OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE IN REINFORCED NAC OR AMONG PERMREPS. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY GUIDANCE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON THIS MATTER, SO THAT IF WASHINGTON DESIRES REINFORCED NAC, THE MISSION CAN MAKE A TIMELY PROPOSAL TO ALLIES. IS OFFICIAL STATES THAT IN NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS, THE ECONOMIC STUDY WOULD NOT REACH THE NAC UNTIL THE PERMREPS RETURN FROM THE NPG MINISTERIAL.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON WHETHER NAC CONSIDERATION OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE IN REINFORCED NAC OR AT A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, AND IF THE FORMER, WHAT SORT OF REPRESENTATION THE US WOULD ENVISAGE.
BRUCE.

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